

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCTJP40016	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/019622	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 28.12.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 06.01.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC D01C1/02, B27L11/08, D01C1/04		
Applicant TOYOTA SHATAI KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/019622

Box No. I	Basis of the report
1.	<p>With regard to the language, this report is based on:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application in the language in which it was filed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international search (Rule 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> publication of the international application (Rule 12.4(a))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))</p> <p>2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on <i>(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as “originally filed” and are not annexed to this report)</i>:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed/furnished</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description:</p> <p>pages _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the claims:</p> <p>nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19</p> <p>nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings:</p> <p>sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p>

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked “superseded.”

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/019622

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																					
1. Statement	<table><tbody><tr><td rowspan="2">Novelty (N)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-9</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Inventive step (IS)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-9</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Industrial applicability (IA)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-9</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr></tbody></table>	Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES	Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES	Claims		NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES	Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims		<u>1-9</u>	YES																		
	Claims		NO																			
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES																			
	Claims		NO																			
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES																			
	Claims		NO																			
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)	<p>Document 1: JP 2003-201689 A (Araco Corp.), 18 July 2003</p> <p>Document 2: JP 11-241284 A (Akio MITA), 07 September 1999, page 3, column 3, paragraph [0006]</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2002-105737 A (Araco Corp.), 10 April 2002, page 3, column 3, line 36</p> <p>Document 4: JP 2001-336022 A (Araco Corp.), 07 December 2001</p> <p>The method for separating the bast fibers that are present in the bark of a woody plant, said method comprising a first process for separating the bark of the woody plant from the core of the woody plant, a second process for pressing the bark that has been separated from the core and a third process for immersing the pressed bark in an aqueous solution in order to accelerate the decomposition of the gum within the bark which adheres the bast fibers to one another, is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p>																					